Shortage of Space in Hyderabad Passport Office

2784. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of Regional Passport Office at Hyderabad like inadequacy of space, inconverence to customers, involvement of brokers, irresponsible behaviour of staff, unusual delay in issuing passport etc; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to improve the working conditions at the Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the constraints of space in the Passport Offices, including Passport Office, Hyderabad, following the marked increase in the number of applicants in recent years. The Government has undertaken a programme of hiring better premises and purchasing land or built up property for all the Passport Offices.

The existence of certain individuals, not belonging to the Passport Offices, who seek to exploit applicants, has come to the notice of the Government.

Whenever complaints of bad behaviour by a member of a Passport Office are received, they are investigated and if it is established that the complaint has substance, action is taken against the erring officer.

Passport Office, Hyderabad takes approximately 55 days to issue a passport in the normal course when the application is complete in all respects.

Government have taken a number of steps to improve the functioning of the Passport Offices including PO, Hyderabad. These steps inter alia include stabilisation of the supply of passport booklets; introduction of a productivity linked incentive scheme; creation of 400 additional posts; etc. In addition, through the supply of adequate and modern office equipment, facilities at the Passport Offices, including Passport Office Hyderabad, are being improved.

Development of Rocket Missile Technology by Pakistan

2785. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI J. S. RAJU:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Pakistan has derived Rocket technology from Aerospathiale. French space company;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that China is clandestinely helping Pakistan to develop Rocket missile technology; if so, details thereof;

(d) whether Government have considered these issues seriously; and

(e) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to ensure that our defence system is geared up to meet such threats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Casual workers in Passport Offices in the Country

2786. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of casual workers/daily wages workers employed in different passport offices in India since 30th June, 1992 till date;

(b) whether Government are considering to regularise their services; and

(c) if so, the period of regularisation, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The information is being collected and will be placed before the House.

(b) and (c) Services of casual workers are regularised against Group D posts in different Passport Offices on the basis of Government guidelines as and when vacancies arise.

U. S. Interference in India's Developmental Programmes

2787. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to approach forums like U. N. to protest against